

**SOME INTERESTING BUTTERFLY CAPTURES MADE AT BAYVIEW, N.S.W.**

by L. C. Haines

Hon. Associate (Lepidoptera), Australian Museum, Sydney.

Bayview is a bushland suburb of Sydney situated on the southern shores of Pittwater and approximately 20 miles north of the city. The following notes concern the capture of three butterfly species rarely observed in the Sydney district, the Evening Brown, *Melanitis leda bankia* (Fabricius), the Pale Green Triangle, *Graphium eurypylus lycaon* (C. & R. Felder) and the small Green-banded Blue, *Danis hymetus taygetus* (C. & R. Felder).

***Melanitis leda bankia* Evening Brown**

This species is recorded from the Northern Territory, the islands of Torres Strait and from Cape York, Queensland, to Port Macquarie, N.S.W. Waterhouse (1932) mentions, in his notes on the species, that the Evening Brown has also been recorded from near Sydney and goes on to say that although he had searched for it in likely places, he had never once observed the species.

I now wish to place on record the taking of three specimens, including both forms, in my garden at Bayview.

At dusk on the evening of 25th January, 1970, I saw a butterfly settle in some long grass. Though not having previously observed the Evening Brown, I felt that it possibly was that species and on capturing the butterfly found that it was, and in fairly good condition. The specimen was of the form known as *barnardi*.

Again at dusk, on 28th February, 1970, I saw a butterfly above some trees. It dropped into a thicket growing along the bank of the creek that runs through my property. I located the butterfly sitting on a Lantana leaf and recognised it as being an Evening Brown, but unfortunately missed it with my net. Suddenly however, to my surprise, a pair of Evening Browns appeared and with a single stroke of the net I captured them. Both were of the typical form and in perfect condition.

Dr C. N. Smithers, Principal Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney, informs me that he observed the Evening Brown at Apple Tree Bay, Bobbin Head, 8 miles W.S.W. of Bayview, during the late afternoons of 9th and 10th November, 1969, the latter occasion in the company of Mr J. V. Peters. The butterflies were near a waterfall, but because of the rocky nature of the terrain, it was impossible to make captures. Dr Smithers again visited Apple Tree Bay on 14th November, 1969, but though specimens of the Evening Brown were observed, no captures were made.

It would appear that my three specimens of this crepuscular butterfly are the first to have been collected within the Sydney district.

***Graphium eurypylus lycaon* Pale Green Triangle**

Early in the afternoon of 28th February, 1970, the same day as that on which I captured the pair of Evening Browns, I netted a female Pale Green Triangle. The butterfly was attracted to the flowers of Buddleia growing in my garden. Since making this capture, I have also

observed at Buddleia bushes in my garden, no less than eight more specimens of this species, two of which I managed to net. All occurred during March, 1971 and the details are as follows:-

11th March. A female in excellent condition captured during the morning.

13th March. Observed at approximately 11.30 a.m. a single specimen.

14th March. A single specimen noted at mid-day.

19th March. Two observed during the morning and one noted at 3 p.m.

22nd March. One observed during the morning.

23rd March. A perfect male taken during the morning.

All the Pale Green Triangles recorded, appeared to be in perfect condition and Mr J. V. Peters, to whom I mentioned this fact, thinks that they may have been breeding locally. Olliff (1889), p. 3, also supports this view.

Prior to the observations and captures mentioned above, the Pale Green Triangle seems to have been somewhat of a rarity in the Sydney district. Nevertheless, I have been able to locate a number of records which I list below. No doubt there are others of which I am unaware.

British Museum; Two males, Auburn, N.S.W., (Coll.), 1921-1922.

Australian Museum; One male, Killara, N.S.W., J. T. Waterhouse, 17th April, 1933.

Australian Museum; Two females, Waverley, N.S.W., Dr G. A. Waterhouse, (no date).

Moulds (1963), records the following eight observations of the Pale Green Triangle. "1 seen, Avalon Bch, 20-1-62, flight fast, Moulds. 1 seen, Greenwich, 24-2-62, reasonable condition, Moulds." Both localities are suburbs of Sydney.

G. A. Waterhouse also records on his "Australian butterflies record cards", now held by the Australian Museum, a Sydney specimen for February and one for March. No dates are given and the observations were made by G. A. Waterhouse and G. Lyell respectively.

### ***Danis hymetus taygetus* Small Green-banded Blue**

A perfect male was captured on 26th April, 1970, by M. Bulpitt, schoolboy collector living across the road from me. Although I collected three females of this rain forest species and observed quite a number of other specimens in 1968, Haines (1969), I did not record a single specimen for the years 1969, 1970 and 1971, nor have I observed specimens as yet, this year, 1972.

### **References**

- Haines, L. C., 1969. The occurrence of *Danis hymetus taygetus* (Felder) at Bayview, New South Wales. *Proc. R. zool. Soc. N.S.W.* 1967-68: 1-2.
- Moulds, M. S., 1963. Records of northern butterflies in the Sydney district. *Comm. ent. Sect. R. zool. Soc. N.S.W.* 17: 36.
- Olliff, A. S., 1889. *Australian butterflies*. Nat. Hist. Ass. N.S.W., Sydney. 100 pp., illustr.
- Waterhouse, G. A., 1932. *What butterfly is that?* Angus & Robertson, Sydney. 291 pp., illustr.